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UNCLAS COLOMBO 000413

SIPDIS

THE HAGUE FOR CWC DEL

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE VII  
OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

REF: STATE 28853

Poloff presented reftel demarche to Sumedha Ekanayake, Assistant Director for UN and Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on February 24. Ekanayake reported that his government has already set up a national authority and a full-time national coordinator in partial fulfillment of its obligations under Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The first draft of implementing legislation has been prepared and is scheduled for review by the National Coordinating Committee the first week of March. Ekanayake estimated that the legislation should be ready for presentation to the Cabinet by June. He emphasized that his government is well aware of the November 2005 deadline for compliance and has every expectation of meeting it.

LUNSTEAD